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Amateur Home Decoration.

Edward Dewson, del.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Subscribers who are either building new houses or are contemplating re-decorating their present homes are invited to write us for information regarding color harmony and artistic schemes of furnishing. We employ trained skill to solve all questions of interior decoration.

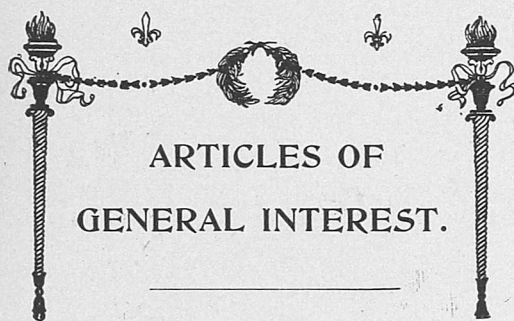
In compliance with the wishes of many of our correspondents to purchase housefurnishing goods in New York, we notify our readers that we have organized a Purchasing Department, and are prepared to purchase goods at prices quoted, without making any charge therefor. We strongly advise those who write to us for decorative color schemes to carefully consider our advice, with the samples of the various materials in hand, which we invariably send with each

reply, so that their minds will be fully made up when they ask us to Purchase the goods, and know that every item of their order is the result of a definite decision. It is impossible to exchange goods after the materials have been cut and shipped, and we hope, in all cases, that the goods as ordered, when sent will be accepted and paid for.

Correspondents when writing us are particularly requested to embody a reply to the following points in their letters:

1. Write legibly and on one side of the paper.
2. Send copy of architect's plan or a rough sketch of the plan of the house, showing size, height and arrangement of rooms, with the north and south aspects clearly indicated.

3. Give particulars of existing wood-work, mentioning the nature of the trim, floor, cornice, picture-moldings and mantel in each room; state what must be retained, and what, if any, specified articles of furniture are desired.
4. State separately the maximum outlay permissible for wall treatments, ceiling decoration (if any), textile hangings, carpets and furniture.
5. Send brief notes of the house, its location, age and environment, and such particulars of the owner's tastes and sentiments bearing upon the matter as would be discovered from a personal interview.
6. Send ten two-cent stamps if samples of paper, carpets, draperies, etc. are desired by mail, otherwise we must express same at inquirer's expense.



ARTICLES OF GENERAL INTEREST.

VENETIAN BENT IRON WORK FOR AMATEURS.

By P. A. SCHWARZENBACH.

REALIZING the growing interest in this fascinating home art among amateurs of the present day, I set forth in this number of *THE DECORATOR AND FURNISHER* an excellent variety of articles in this line, trusting that those of our readers who have become interested in this useful as well as ornamental work, will find something to please and interest them.

The first of the series; Sketch No. 1, is a graceful and artistic photograph stand. This is quite elaborate and will make a handsome addition to the parlor table or mantelpiece. It can be made in copper or bronze with rich effect.

Make the oval next to glass, of two one-quarter-inch ribbons, the balance of frame may be made with the single ribbon, and bind with the same. The legs of the stand should be of three-sixteenth-inch square iron.

Sketch No. 2 shows a very artistic method of decorating a plain bowl of glass: adapting the material as suggested will go far toward making this common object an article of beauty.



SKETCH NO. 1.
A BENT IRON PHOTOGRAPH STAND.

The article in question may be either a fish or flower bowl, and one can readily see what a difference this simple work makes, in the matter of ornamentation.

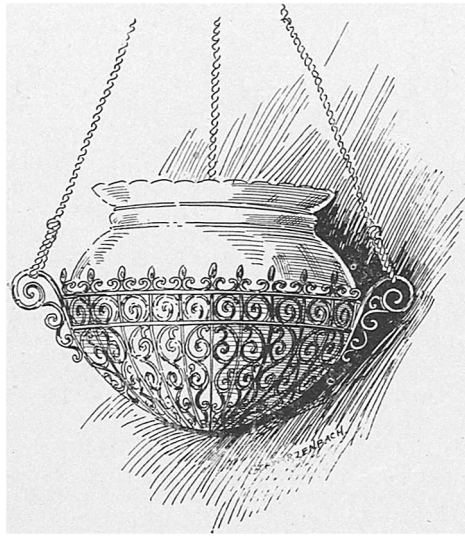
For the two circles use one-quarter-inch iron rod; this will make it strong, and carry the weight of the bowl. For the three handles use three-eighths by one-eighth-inch iron rod; this last is important, and for the scroll work use three-sixteenths-inch or one-quarter-inch ribbon. This last point must be left to your own judgment, as it depends largely upon the size and weight of the bowl.

Sketch No. 3 illustrates a very dainty cosey corner candle-bracket. All amateurs who work in this material, should make such a bracket, for it is a very pretty addition to a room, and after in place and lighted you will no doubt say "Just what I wanted," and your friends will keep you busy in getting them supplied.

For the scroll arm, use one-quarter-inch square iron; for the back, three-eighths by one-eighth-inch iron, and one-quarter-inch ribbon for the balance of the design, binding with same.

Our next, Sketch No. 4, is a stained glass panel, combined with Venetian bent iron around the border. For those who have the opportunity for such a decoration in door or transom, a very pretty and novel effect can be attained by this combination.

For the main oblong use three-eighths by one-eighth-inch iron, in fact it would be better to use it throughout the whole design. For the grill work use three-eighths-inch ribbon, and bind with three-sixteenths-inch ribbon. This also may be made very effective by constructing in either copper or brass.



SKETCH NO. 2.
A HANGING PLANT BOWL.

CLEANING WALL PAPER.

THE easiest method of cleaning the dusty and somewhat blackened surface, is to arm one's self with a broom, over which is pinned some cotton flannel, which must be changed frequently, as the flannel will soon be in such a condition that to continue its use would smear the walls with dust and soot. Go over the ceiling first with long even, firm strokes; then do the walls in the same way. Another way to clean the paper is to have on hand several loaves of stale bread, and use instead of the broom and cloth. Cut off the crust from the long end of the loaf and rub the paper with it, cutting off a thin slice as soon as the crumbs become soiled. This is a tedious method, but it is effective. To remove a grease spot, lay coarse brown paper over it and pass a hot iron over the brown paper. Repeat this process, using a fresh piece of paper until the spot disappears.

Parties who want paper cleaned should be informed that stains and fly dirt cannot be cleaned off. Only the loose smoke and dirt will come with any kind of a cleaner. Another thing should be looked after. As a general thing, the moldings around the room have been wiped off and the damp rag has run over on the paper, which has come in contact with the dirt and has stained the paper. This will not be visible until you attempt to clean it, when the stains will show out in bold relief.

ZINC WALL PAPER.

“ZINC wall paper” is the latest oddity, and several residences of the highest class now building will be equipped with the zinc papers, which are prepared by a new process, so as to exactly resemble marble. The most beautiful varieties of marble are imitated in such a manner that the imposture is only to be detected after a close examination.

The zinc is attached to the wall by a cement invented for the purpose. The surface of the zinc is enameled so as to render it permanent and washable. Tiles or any other form of mural covering can be imitated as readily as marble and the material is made in a great variety of patterns.

It is claimed for this new departure in decorative material that while it is as permanent as tiles or marble, it is much cheaper, and can be as easily put on as ordinary wall paper. It can be applied, too, to any surface, whether flat, broken or sound, and any beading, etc., can be embossed on the metal to complete a design or panel.

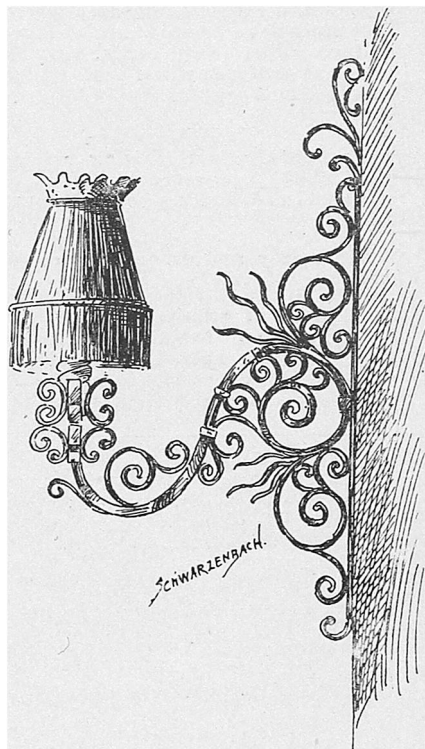
THE POPULAR SHOP.

JOSEPH P. McHUGH & CO., FORTY-SECOND STREET, WEST OF FIFTH AVENUE, NEW YORK.

FROM January, 1897, the out-of-town Sample Department will be under the charge of Mrs. Alice Chittenden, who will supply information on all topics connected with the interior decoration of town or country houses in connection with the use of the “Liberty” fabrics, wall papers, floor coverings, and characteristic furniture.

Inquiries for samples or other information should state the character of contemplated improvements, size of rooms, quantities required and in all cases limits of prices of material to be used.

Where colors are mentioned, samples of some sort should accompany the request as a guidance for the decorator.



SKETCH NO. 3.
A COSEY CORNER CANDLE BRACKET.

DENIMS AND THEIR USES.

DURING a century or more, blue jeans, as denim was designated, was put to the humblest and most ignominious uses. As overalls for Northern laborers and Southern negroes, jeans was serviceable, but not, in any sense beautiful. Now, however, through artistic genius and inventiveness, it is changed into a fabric that, if properly used, commands the admiration of the refined.

Manufactured in various colors, such as cream white, rich brown, deep red, delft blue, and sage green, the surface is etched by an acid that does no injury to the fabric. The designs, artistic in their conventional and geometric flutings, are left in the cream white of the original cotton. Denim is then made into hangings for country and seaside cottages, or for city chambers, as well as couch covers, wall hangings, sofa cushions

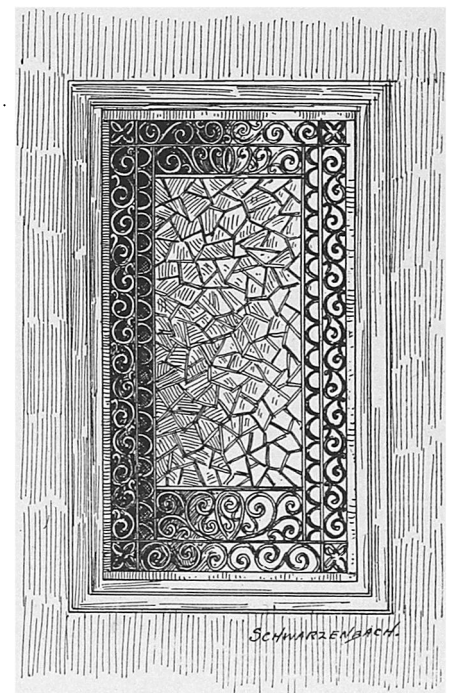
and table covers. When left plain, it makes an excellent and durable all-over floor covering as a base for rugs, or for large rugs for floor centres. In the latter case the denim is usually bordered with a wide stripe of the same material, wrong side out.

In sofa pillows, denim is wrought with either rope linen, Roman floss or Asiatic rope silk, in some contrasting color, or in white or black. The latter, embroidered with large arabesque design, is rich, durable, and capable of indefinite laundering.

As a table cover, three or more widths are needed of the denim. One would be exceedingly handsome made of olive green, the breadths put together with two-inch ribbon either cream or pale old rose color, and the ribbon wrought in a conventional running pattern with Asiatic twisted embroidery silk. The ribbon could then be cat-stitched to the denim. The yellow denim and the delft blue, would be handsome with cream ribbon, similarly wrought with black Roman floss or Asiatic twisted embroidery silk, or with yellow of the same shade as the denim. Deep red would go with ribbon of the same color but a lighter tint, and so on through the gamut of color.

For hangings for a bathroom door or window, denim is unexcelled. It may be wrought with a dado simulating the broken surface of water with water lily leaves, buds and blossoms. Any woman could sketch such a design with a lead pencil, and work it in stem-stitch with black or white Roman floss silk. The latter would be the more serviceable and striking. It should, in such cases, be used to cover the hanging medicine case that is an important bathroom fitment.

As a wall hanging denim, is deservedly popular. It may or may not be used with a dado of Chinese matting, the division between the two being outlined with bamboo molding. For piazza lounges and sofa pillows, it is indispensable. In fact, the Southern negro has yielded for all time, his usurpation of denim to the entire “wide, wide world.”



SKETCH NO. 4.
A WINDOW SCREEN, COMBINING BENT IRON AND STAINED GLASS.